

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 4, 2006 has been carefully considered.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the kind allowance of claims 51-54. Claims 1, 3, 13, 15, 25, 27, 37 and 39 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, drawings, and claims, as originally filed. Applicants submit, therefore, that the amendments do not add new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-10, 13-22, 25-34 and 37-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hejza¹ in view of Aune², among which claims 1, 13, 25 and 37 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 as amended includes the following limitations.

“A method for on-demand management of Internet Protocol (IP) address pools, the method comprising:
allocating an IP address from a local IP address pool designated for a remote domain if a request to connect to said remote domain is received, said local IP address pool comprising one or more of at least one subnet obtained from a global IP address pool, each of said at least one subnet specifying a contiguous set of one or more IP addresses;
deallocating an IP address back to said local IP address pool if said IP address is relinquished by a remote user; and
apportioning one or more of said at least one subnet between said global IP address pool and said local IP address pool based upon utilization of said local IP address pool by requesting one or more subnet from said global IP address pool if utilization of said local IP address pool exceeds a first threshold and releasing one or more subnet to said global IP address pool if utilization of said local IP address pool falls below a second threshold.”

(Amended claim 1) (Emphasis added)

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,577,628

² No. 9904240 A

Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 to include the limitations of original claims 3, 15, 27, and 39, respectively. Applicants now address the Examiner's rejection of original claims 3, 15, 27, and 39.

The Office Action contends that Aune teaches requesting one or more packs of addresses if the pool utilization exceeds a first threshold; and releasing one or more packs of addresses if pool utilization falls below a second threshold. The Examiner has cited the Abstract of Aune for this teaching.

Applicants respectfully submit that Aune does not teach the limitation of requesting or release of one or more subnets as claimed. A thorough reading of Aune clearly shows that Aune does not disclose this limitation. In this regard, Aune discloses dynamically adjusting the size of the address blocks so as to balance the efficient use of addresses and the generated traffic. It is clear therefore that Aune, contrary to teaching the request and release of subnets, actually teaches away from any quantum address-block size.

Further, as discussed previously, applicants respectfully maintain that Aune does not disclose the limitation of apportioning subnets based upon utilization of the local IP address pool. Aune discloses that a local pool of a processor is supplied with a pack of addresses from the global pool upon the request of the processor where the processor gives addresses to subscribers and upon subsequent requests, if the processor's local IP-pool is empty, it receives another pack of addresses. Aune does not show monitoring the number of IP addresses used by subscribers and apportioning subnets based upon utilization of the local IP address pool.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is not rendered obvious by Hejza or Aune alone or in combination, nor by any combination of the cited references. Given that claims 2 - 50 contain the limitations as discussed, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 – 50 are not rendered obvious by Hejza or Aune alone or in combination, nor by any combination of the cited references.

In regard to dependent claims 3, 15, 27, and 39, as amended, applicants respectfully submit that neither Hejza, Aune, or any of the cited references disclose the limitations of a subnet request that includes specifying a remote domain ID, a NAS port, and a subnet and a subnet release that includes specifying a remote domain ID, a NAS port, a subnet size and a subnet address. Such limitations further highlight the distinction between the invention as claimed and Aune. This is because such limitation would directly contradict the IP-address-block dynamic adjustment scheme as taught in Aune. Any reference disclosing such a limitation would not be combinable with Aune.

For these additional reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 15, 27, and 39, and their respective dependent claims are not rendered obvious by Hejza or Aune alone or in combination, nor by any combination of the cited references.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

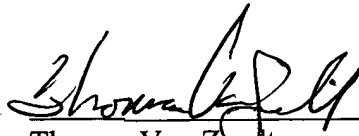
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 6/22/06


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